

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic voting system, comprising:

5 at least one disability related communication device used by a voter and coupled to a network; and

at least one voter interface unit coupled to said network, said voter interface unit being enabled to confirm identification information provided by the voter, deliver ballot choices to the voter, accept a ballot choice made by the voter, and deliver the ballot choice to a tabulation system.

- 10 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the disability related communication device comprises at least one of a basic telephone, personal or laptop computer, amplified telephone, cellular telephone or other wireless device, hand-held computing device, hearing carryover telephone, Relay-(ASCII), Relay-(VCO), Relay-(TTY), Relay-(Voice), speech recognition device, talking-aid devices, touch
15 tone input devices, TTY with built-in printer, TTY with braille, TTY with large visual display, voice carryover telephone, or a combination thereof.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein said network comprises at least one of POTS, cable, or Internet.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein the voter interface unit confirms each ballot selection made by the voter.

- 20 5. The system of claim 4 wherein said confirmation of each ballot selection made by the voter is performed immediately after each selection.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein the voter can correct any ballot error before the ballot is cast.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein the system further comprises a ballot design database that provides ballot choices to be decided by the voter.

5 8. The system of claim 1 wherein the system further comprises a voter registration database that provides voter registration information concerning the voter.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein said voter interface unit confirms identification information provided by the voter at least in part by utilizing said voter registration information.

10 10. The system of claim 1 wherein said voter interface unit confirms identification information provided by the voter at least in part through voice recognition.

11. The system of claim 1 wherein the voter interface unit is further enabled to provide the voter with an option to connect the voter with a live poll worker, if desired by the voter, at any time when the voter is connected to the system.

12. The system of claim 11 wherein the voter is connected with the poll worker without
15 requiring any additional peripheral equipment or software.

13. The system of claim 11 wherein said voter interface unit is further enabled to automatically determine a particular type of disability related communication device being used by said voter and, based on said determination, connect said voter with a live poll worker equipped to

communicate with said particular type of disability related communication device being used by said voter.

14. The system of claim 1 wherein said voter interface unit is further enabled to prompt the voter to provide voter registration information, accept voter registration information provided by the voter, and deliver the voter registration information to a voter registration database.

15. A method for a disabled voter using a disability related communication device coupled to a network to cast a vote from a location remote from a polling place, said method comprising:

connecting to at least one voter interface unit using coupled to said network,

said voter interface unit being enabled to confirm identification information provided by the voter, deliver ballot choices to the voter, accept a ballot choice made by the voter, and deliver the ballot choice to a tabulation system.

16. A method for a disabled voter using a disability related communication device coupled to a network to register to vote from a remote location, said method comprising:

connecting to at least one voter interface unit coupled to said network,

said voter interface unit being enabled to confirm identification information provided by the voter, prompt said voter to provide registration information, accept said registration information from said voter, and deliver said registration information to a registration database.

17. A voter interface unit for enabling a disabled voter to vote from a location remote from a polling place using a disability related communication device coupled to a network, said voter interface unit comprising:

a memory; and

a processor operatively coupled to said network and configured to confirm identification information provided by the voter, deliver ballot choices to the voter, accept a ballot choice made by the voter, and deliver the ballot choice to a tabulation system.

18. The voter interface unit of claim 17 wherein said communication device communicates over a network.

19. The voter interface unit of claim 18 wherein said network comprises at least one of POTS, cable, or Internet.

20. The voter interface unit of claim 17 wherein said processor confirms identification information provided by the voter at least in part through voice recognition.

21. The voter interface unit of claim 17 wherein the processor is further enabled to provide the voter with an option to connect the voter with a live poll worker, if desired by the voter, at any time when the voter is connected to the network.

22. The voter interface unit of claim 17 wherein said voter interface unit is further enabled to prompt the voter to provide voter registration information, accept voter registration information provided by the voter, and deliver the voter registration information to a voter registration database.

23. An article of manufacture comprising a storage medium for storing one or more programs for enabling a disabled voter to vote from a location remote from a polling place using a disability related communication device coupled to a network, wherein the one or more programs when executed by a processor implement the steps of:

- 5 confirming identification information provided by the voter,
- delivering ballot choices to the voter,
- accepting a ballot choice made by the voter,
- and delivering the ballot choice to a tabulation system.